

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A modified, ~~unsubstituted or~~ hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product for clinical use, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 20 mol %, a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, ~~the unsubstituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol~~ %, and ~~that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch~~ product has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range of from 10000 to 450000, with the proviso that said ~~unsubstituted or~~ hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.

Claims 2-13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 1, wherein said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 10 mol %.
15. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14, wherein said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has a degree of substitution MS in the range of from 0.05 to 0.3.
16. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 15, wherein said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has a degree of substitution MS in the range of from 0.05 to 0.15.
17. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14, wherein said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 10,000 to 40,000.
18. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14, wherein said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has

an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 40,000 to 450,000.

19. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14, wherein the  $C_2/C_6$  ratio of said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is in the range of from 4 to 20.
20. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 19, wherein said  $C_2/C_6$  ratio is in the range of from 5 to 9.
21. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14, wherein said hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is hydroxyethylated starch.
22. (New) The modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14, wherein the reducing ends of said modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product are inactivated by oxidation or reduction.
23. (New) A dialysis solution comprising water and the modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14.
24. (New) A plasma expander comprising water and the modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14.
25. (New) A method of peritoneal dialysis comprising dialyzing with a dialysis solution comprising the modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14 as colloid osmotic agent in dialysis.
26. (New) A method for volume replacement comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a plasma expander comprising the modified hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product of claim 14.
27. (New) A modified unsubstituted starch product for clinical use, wherein said modified unsubstituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol

% and an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range of from 10,000 to 450,000, with the proviso that said unsubstituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.

28. (New) The modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27, wherein said modified unsubstituted starch product has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 10,000 to 40,000.
29. (New) The modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27, wherein said modified unsubstituted starch product has an average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) in the range from 40,000 to 450,000.
30. (New) The modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27, wherein the reducing ends of said modified unsubstituted starch product are inactivated by oxidation or reduction.
31. (New) A dialysis solution comprising water and the modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27.
32. (New) A plasma expander comprising water and the modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27.
33. (New) A method of peritoneal dialysis comprising dialyzing with a dialysis solution comprising the modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27 as colloid osmotic agent in dialysis.
34. (New) A method for volume replacement comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a plasma expander comprising the modified unsubstituted starch product of claim 27.